

In the Specification:

Page 6, delete the paragraph beginning on line 3 and substitute the following:

--Techniques for the initial derivation, culture, and characterization of the human ES cell line H9 were described in J. Thomson et al., 282 Science 1145-1147 (1998). In my experiments herein human ES cells were then plated on irradiated (35 gray gamma irradiation) mouse embryonic fibroblast. Culture medium for the present work consisted of 80% "KnockOut"(TM) Dulbeco's modified Eagle's medium (DMEM) (Gibco BRL, Rockville, MD), 1 mM L-Glutamine, 0.1 mM -mercaptoethanol, and 1% nonessential amino acids stock (Gibco BRL, Rockville, MD), supplemented with either 20% fetal bovine serum (HyClone, Logan, UT) or 20% KnockOut(TM) SR medium adjuvant, a serum-free replacement originally optimized for mouse ES cells (Gibco BRL, Rockville, MD). The components of KnockOut(TM) SR medium adjuvant are those described for serum replacements in WO 98/30679.--

Page 6, delete the paragraph beginning on line 19 and substitute the following:

--In alternative experiments medium was supplemented with either serum or the aforesaid serum replacer KnockOut(TM) SR medium adjuvant, and either with or without human recombinant basic fibroblast growth factor (bFGF, 4 ng/ml). The preferred concentration range of bFGF in the culture is between .1 ng/ml to 500 ng/ml.--